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IV. Relief for American Prisoners of War Held by Japan

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The following message concerning relief for prisoners of war held by Japan has been transmitted by the Acting Secretary of State to the Japanese Government through the Swiss authorities:

"1. The Japanese Government has agreed to apply the provisions of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention of 1929 to American prisoners of war and civilian internees. Article 37 of that Convention provides for the receipt by prisoners of supplies of food and clothing supplemental to those which it is the duty of the detaining power to furnish, in as much as it states that prisoners shall be allowed to receive parcels intended to supply them with food or clothing. It further states that such parcels shall be delivered to the prisoners.

"2. The American Red Cross assumed that the Japanese Government would grant safe conduct for a Red Cross ship to transport supplemental supplies of food and clothing destined to American and other prisoners of war and civilian internees in Japanese custody as German and Italian Governments have done and are continuing to do for supplies being sent for prisoners and internees in their custody. Accordingly, the American Red Cross chartered the neutral Swedish motorship *Kanangoora* to carry such supplies and the ship is now ready to sail from San Francisco with the supplies. It is to be operated by the International Red Cross Committee, a representative of which, who will be a citizen of a neutral country, will be the only person on board besides the Swedish citizens composing the crew.

"3. The American Red Cross has requested, through the channels of the International Red Cross Committee, the

consent of the Japanese Government for the voyage of the ship to Manila via Kobe, Shanghai, and Hong Kong, with the supplies. The United States Government also has officially asked for that consent through the channels of the Swiss Government representing the interests of the United States in Japan. Through both channels the Japanese Government has now replied refusing such consent. It states that it does not object, however, to such shipments on vessels exchanging Japanese and United States nationals at Lour-enço Marques.

"4. The motorship *Gripsholm* used by the United States Government in the exchange of Japanese and Americans at Lourenço Marques does not have sufficient cargo carrying capacity to transport the amount of supplies which it is desired to send to prisoners and internees in the Far East. Moreover, the exchange ship does not provide a means of continued transportation of such supplies. Additional shipping must therefore be employed if the prisoners and internees are to receive supplementary supplies as provided for by the Convention.

"5. If the Japanese Government will not permit the *Kanangoora* to proceed on its proposed voyage to the Far East with the supplies in question, then the United States Government proposes that the Japanese Government agree that the *Kanangoora* or other Red Cross ship shall proceed from the United States with the supplies to Macau or to Lourenço Marques, to which port the Japanese Government will similarly send a Red Cross ship to receive the supplies and transport them for delivery to the prisoners and internees. The United States Government desires to point out in this connection that it is incumbent upon the Japanese Government to facilitate by whatever means may be available, the delivery of parcels intended for prisoners in fulfillment of the obligation of the detaining power to allow prisoners to receive parcels and to deliver the parcels to them as provided by Article 37 of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention. The United States Government, while looking to the Japanese Government to fulfill its obligations under the Convention in this matter, is fully conscious of its own obligations thereunder."